(c) whether subletting of quarters by Army Officials have caused serious concern over the security aspects in the Fort; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Government quarter inside the Red Fort has been subletted by the Army.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Surprise checks are organised to ensure that the Government quarters, are not subletted by anybody.

AJT Deal

2729. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Defence made a commitment in Parliament that the AJT deal would be completed by December, 2000;

(b) what is the cause of delay;

(c) how many MIGs crashed in the last five years; and

(d) how many MIGs crashed in January/February, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Price negotiations are in progress for purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT). Various issues have to be negotiated and settled, before finalising such a major contract.

(c) and (d) 80 MIGs crashed in the last five years. During January/ February, 2001, 3 MIG aircraft have crashed.

Manufacturing LCA

2730. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the decision to manufacture Light Combat Aircraft;

(b) if so, the time schedule to start production of the same and to introduce in the Indian Air Force;

(c) whether the Indian Air Force is agreeable to the proposal; and

(d) the details of the stop-gap arrangements made by Governments till they are introduced in the IAF?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) All aspects of the project are discussed with IAF.

(d) Considering the immediate operational requirements of the IAF, programmes have already been taken up for upgradation of the existing fighter aircraft.

AJT for IAF

2731. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering proposals to acquire Advance Jet Trainers (AJT) for the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government on the subject with details of the offers made by different manufacturing countries including costs and delivery time schedule; and

(c) how long will it take to provide them to our Air Force approximately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Technical evaluation of the proposals has been completed, and negotiations on other relevant issues are in progress.